



# GROWING KINGS

For Immediate Release:  
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## **Growing Kings Receives \$603,871 Grant to Support Underserved Male Youth in Birmingham!**

### Birmingham-based Mentoring Program Receives Grant from The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Birmingham, AL – October 31, 2022 – Growing Kings, an organization that provides mentoring programs to underserved male youth in Birmingham City Schools, is pleased to announce it has received a \$603,871 grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP) to support its “Journey of a King” program model and “All the King’s Men” mentor recruitment and training program. This grant was awarded as part of OJJDP’s commitment to strengthening the implementation and delivery of mentoring services to youth who are at risk for abusing drugs, youth currently abusing or addicted to drugs, and youth with family members who are currently abusing or addicted to drugs.

Growing Kings, founded in 2009, targets many of the issues plaguing today’s underserved male youth through its school-based enrichment and mentoring program series, Journey of a King. The program has been able to engage over 1,500 boys and young men through its innovative, culturally relevant programming, and has recorded long-term impact with 100% of the students who have been involved with the Journey of a King program series for at least three years.

“For years, Growing Kings has served as a phenomenal resource in our community and a haven for our most at-risk youth across the City of Birmingham. These funds will allow for the continued service of Growing Kings by investing in our youth to ensure they receive the support and resources through mentorship to reach their God-given potential,” said U.S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Journey of a King program series engages 500, 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade boys and young men every week of the school year, who participate in 1,000 hours of comprehensive mentoring and enrichment sessions. Through participation in this program, students have consistently shown increases in academic performance, decreases in negative behavioral occurrences, and increases school attendance.

“I have recognized the impact of Growing Kings and its results first hand from my days serving as a principal in Birmingham City Schools; and our continued partnership with this organization is paramount to many young men having the support system in their lives needed to realize their full potential,” stated Birmingham City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Mark Sullivan.

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### **About Growing Kings:**

*Growing Kings is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that operates with a mission to encourage and facilitate the critical thinking and positive attitudes of underserved male youth through systemic and targeted enrichment, research, and advocacy.*